

Arlington Restaurant Composting

Warrant Article No. 56

*By: Alexandra Lay, Summer Schadinger, Eleanor
Rockwood, Anne Marie Spilker, Foster Woodberry*





CAP

CIVIC ACTION PROJECT



1. Proposal

Proposal:

Pilot a 1-year program, available to Arlington restaurants situated along Massachusetts Avenue, that incentivizes food scrap diversion by subsidizing a set percentage of the monthly cost of curbside composting when serviced through select composting companies at a total cost of \$5,000 dollars to the Town of Arlington.



2a. Environmental Benefits





63 million tons of
food waste annually
in the US



Only 4% of food
waste is currently
composted

Waste Incineration


- Emits toxins and pollutants that harm local air quality
- Produces carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, greenhouse gases (GHG)
- Food waste is composed of 70% water, reducing incineration efficiency
 - Increases operation costs, energy, and fuel
 - Increases GHG emissions

Composting:

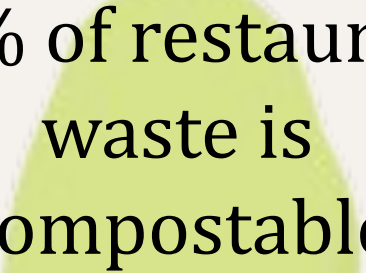
- Breaks down into non-toxic components
 - Water, carbon dioxide, biomass
 - Global warming potential (GWP) of nitrous oxide is 300 times greater than carbon dioxide
- Advances Arlington's **net-zero by 2050** action plan

*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and
Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)*





Restaurants produce
over 600 lb. of solid
waste per week



90% of restaurant
waste is
compostable

Efficiency of Restaurant Composting

- Large environmental impact due to the high volume of food waste we could divert
- Restaurants are concentrated along Massachusetts Ave.
 - decreases fuel costs and emissions
- Effectively spreads awareness to restaurant employees and customers

The slide features two thin, dark horizontal lines. The top line starts with a curved segment on the left side, and the bottom line ends with a curved segment on the right side.

2b. Restaurant Benefits

Increased Business



60% of households
prefer dining at
zero-waste restaurants

- Increases the number of Arlington residents at local restaurants
- Attracts business from neighboring towns

Financial Incentive

Monthly Composting vs. Trash Cost

Quotes courtesy of Black Earth Composting and Waste Management



- After a 10% subsidy, composting costs equate trash pick-up costs

- Restaurant costs do not increase

The slide features two horizontal lines, one near the top and one near the bottom. Each line has a thin, dark brown curved line extending from its left and right ends, creating a decorative frame.

2c. Town Benefits

Rodent Control

- Compost bins do not attract rodents at a higher rate than dumpsters or trash bins
- Bins designed with rodent prevention in mind
 - Extra thick plastic, locking lids
 - Washable/easy to clean
 - Effectively traps odor



The slide features two thin, dark horizontal lines. The top line starts with a curved, wave-like end on the left side. The bottom line ends with a similar curved, wave-like end on the right side.

3. Impact

Total Number of Restaurants Engaged

Total Cost to the Town of Arlington vs. # of Subsidized Restaurants

Quote courtesy of Black Earth Compost

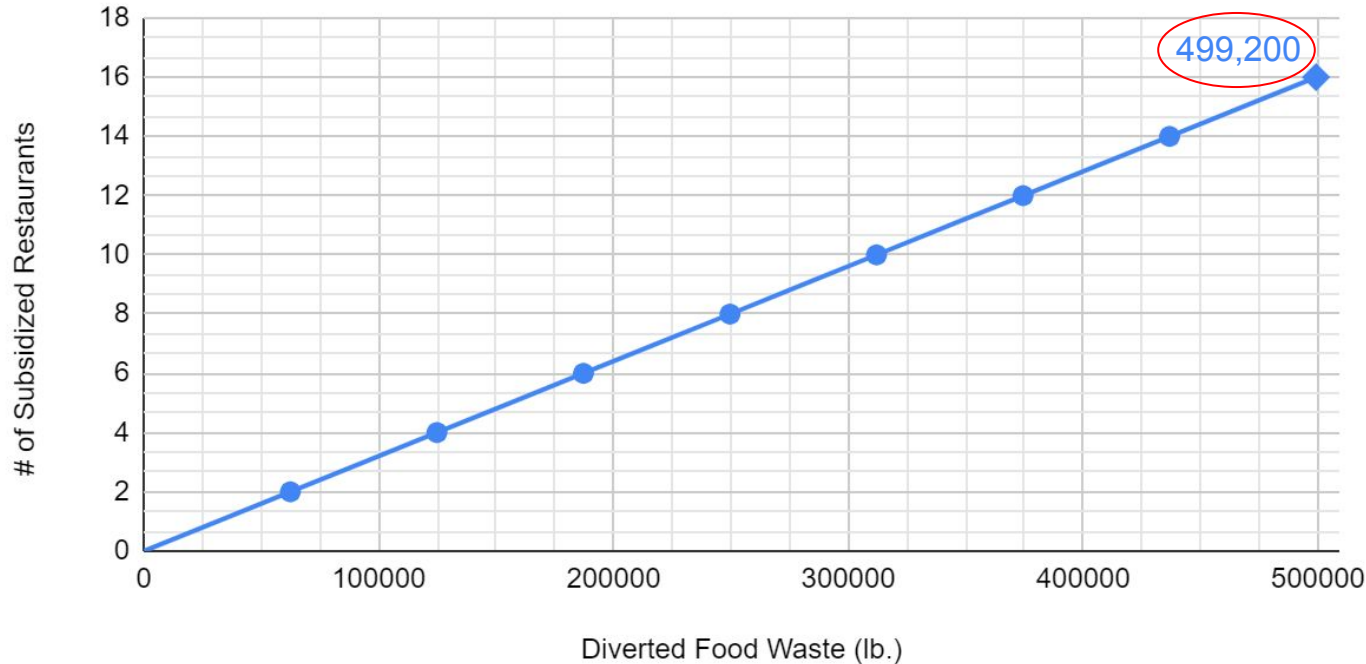


- \$4,992 subsidizes approx. **16** restaurants

Amount of Food Waste Diverted

of Subsidized Restaurants vs. Diverted Food Waste (lb.)

Quote courtesy of Black Earth Compost



- Approx. **499,200 lb.** of food waste diverted over a 1-year period

- **\$1 = 100 lb.** of diverted food waste!



Thank you!

Please consider voting “yes” on warrant article No. 56